



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/738,367	12/15/2000	Rodney Carl Burnett	AUS920000769US1	9819

7590 10/25/2004  
Darcell Walker  
8107 Carvel Lane  
Houston, TX 77036

EXAMINER

NORRIS, TREMAYNE M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2137

DATE MAILED: 10/25/2004

2

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

09/738,367

**Applicant(s)**

BURNETT, RODNEY CARL

**Examiner**

Tremayne M. Norris

**Art Unit**

2137

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 December 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 December 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 1 recites the limitation "new program" in line 3, the limitation "the new administrator program" in line 4, and the limitation "system program" in line 6. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claim.

3. Claims 2-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 2 recites the limitation "the privilege process count" in line 15. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

4. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant

regards as the invention. Claim 8 recites the limitation "the privilege process count" in line 13. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 9 and 10 recite the limitation "the privilege process count", "the system program", and "the initialization". There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claims.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bishop, and further in view of Abraham et al (US pat 5,539,906).

Regarding claim 1, Bishop teaches a method for transferring and monitoring privilege access to functions in a computing system comprising:

transferring a privilege to a new program that will administer the function, said transferred privilege enabling the new administrator to access the function;

transferring the privilege to access the function away from the system program that had the privilege during the initialization of the function on the computer system; and

monitoring the number of programs that have privilege to the function (page 695 col.2 paragraphs 4 and 5; page 696 paragraph 1).

Bishop does not teach the function is a resource manager. Abraham teaches the function is a resource manager (col.11 lines 24-30; col.12 lines 51-62; col.13 lines 5-16). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Bishop's method of providing UNIX security in a supercomputing environment with Abraham's apparatus for controlling access to data in order to allow access to data and processes only to users authorized to do so (Abraham col.3 lines 1-40).

7. Claims 2-4,6,7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bishop and Abraham, and further in view of Donovan et al (US pat 5,940,589).

Regarding claim 2, Bishop and Abraham in combination teach the method of claim 1, in addition Abraham teaches registering the new program and setting a privilege identity for the new program (col.11 lines 54-62), but does not teach incrementing the privilege process count. Donovan teaches incrementing the privilege process count (abstract; col.3 lines 43-45). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Bishop and Abraham's

method of providing UNIX security in a supercomputing environment, as modified above, with Donovan's method for validating subscriber terminals on a network in order to provide a means for restricting access based on user credentials (col.3 lines 34-51).

Regarding claim 3, Bishop, Abraham and Donovan in combination teach the method of claim 2, in addition Bishop teaches requesting a privilege transfer to the function by the new administrator program; and

determining whether the new program requesting the privilege transfer currently has privilege to the function (page 695 col.2 paragraphs 4 and 5; page 696 paragraph 1).

Abraham teaches that the function can be accessing a resource manager (col.11 lines 24-30; col.12 lines 51-62; col.13 lines 5-16).

Regarding claim 4, Bishop, Abraham and Donovan in combination teach the method of claim 3, in addition Bishop teaches the step of determining whether the requesting program has privilege to the function comprises determining whether the new program has a previous registration (page 695 col.2 paragraphs 4 and 5; page 696 paragraph 1).

Abraham teaches that the function can be accessing a resource manager (col.11 lines 24-30; col.12 lines 51-62; col.13 lines 5-16).

Art Unit: 2137

Regarding claim 6, Bishop, Abraham and Donovan in combination teach the method of claim 2, in addition Abraham teaches providing a new privilege identity by the new requesting program (col.4 lines 5-22).

Regarding claim 7, Bishop, Abraham and Donovan in combination teach the method of claim 6, in addition Abraham teaches setting the privilege identity of the resource manager to the privilege identity of the new requesting program;

determining whether requesting program is marked as privilege; and

marking the requesting program as privilege when the program has not been previously marked as privileged (col.4 lines 5-47).

8. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abraham, and further in view of Donovan.

Regarding claim 8, Abraham teaches a method for requesting a program as privilege with respect to a resource manager in a computing system (col.11 lines 24-30; col.12 lines 51-62; col.13 lines 5-16); determining whether the privilege process count is greater than zero; determining whether the requesting program is privileged; marking the requesting program as privileged; and returning privilege to the requesting program (col.4 lines 5-47).

Abraham does not teach determining whether the privilege process count is greater than zero. Donovan teaches determining whether the privilege process count is greater than zero (abstract; col.5 lines 36-57). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Abraham's method of controlling access with Donovan's method for validating subscriber terminals on a network in order to provide a means for restricting access based on user credentials (col.3 lines 34-51).

9. Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bishop, and further in view of Abraham and Donovan.

Regarding claim 9, Bishop teaches a method transferring a privilege access requested, by a new program, to a function and monitoring privilege access to a resource manager in a computing system comprising:

transferring the privilege to access the function away from the system program that had the privilege during the initialization of the function on the computer system (page 695 col.2 paragraphs 4 and 5; page 696 paragraph 1).

What Abraham teaches that Bishop does not teach is the function is a resource manager (col.11 lines 24-30; col.12 lines 51-62; col.13 lines 5-16); determining whether the requesting program is eligible for a privilege to the resource manager; setting a privilege identity to the resource manager to the privilege identity supplied by the requesting program; and marking the requesting program as privileged (col.4 lines 5-



Art Unit: 2137

47). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Bishop's method of providing UNIX security in a supercomputing environment with Abraham's apparatus for controlling access to data in order to allow access to data and processes only to users authorized to do so (Abraham col.3 lines 1-40).

Bishop and Abraham in combination do not teach incrementing the privilege count process. Donovan teaches incrementing the privilege count process (abstract; col.3 lines 43-45). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Bishop and Abraham's method of providing UNIX security in a supercomputing environment, as modified above, with Donovan's method for validating subscriber terminals on a network in order to provide a means for restricting access based on user credentials (col.3 lines 34-51).

Claim 10 is substantially equivalent to claim 9, therefore claim 10 is rejected because of similar rationale.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tremayne M. Norris whose telephone number is (571) 272-3874. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30AM-5:00PM alternate Fridays.


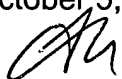
Art Unit: 2137

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Caldwell can be reached on (571) 272-3868. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Tremayne Norris

October 5, 2004

  
Andrew Caldwell